

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR, PO

SUBJECT: FO REPORT ON PORTUGAL

REF: PARIS 18531

1. BY PERSONAL LETTER 23 JULY ADDRESSED TO JOURNALISTS OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, ANDRE BERGERON, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FORCE OUVRIERE, SENT COPY AND CALLED ATTENTION TO THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE FO DELEGATION WHICH VISITED LISBON 7-12 JULY (REFTEL). LETTER ADDS THAT THE FO CONFEDERAL BUREAU APPROVED THE DELEGATION'S CONCLUSIONS CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF THOSE IN PORTUGAL WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONS AND POLITICAL DEMOCRACY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND URGED THE JOURNALISTS TO JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES

AFTER THEY READ THE DOCUMENTS.

2. THE FIVE-PAGE REPORT CONTAINS A SUMMARY OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN PORTUGAL AT TIME OF VISIT, A FORCEFUL CONDEMNATION OF PCP POLICIES AND TACTICS AND UNRESERVED SUPPORT FOR PSP'S SOMBER ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ITS STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE POLITICAL DEMOCRACY.

3. FO REPORT URGES ICFTU/UNION ITS TO REFUSE ANY CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED INTERSINDICAL AND IN AN ANNEX REPRODUCES COPY OF LETTER FROM ICFTU SECRETARY OTTO KERSTEN CAUTIONING ICFTU AFFILIATES TO DECLINE INVITATIONS TO ATTEND INTERSINDICAL CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR 28 JULY.

4. TWO ADDITIONAL ANNEXES TO THE REPORT DEAL SEPARATELY WITH THE TRADE UNION SITUATION IN THE BANK EMPLOYEES AND INSURANCE EMPLOYEES UNIONS. BOTH REPORTS DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE PCP RELENTLESS TACTICS TO PREVENT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF EMPLOYEES IN BANKS AND INSURANCE FROM EXERCISING THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN REJECTING THE COMMUNIST MODEL OF UNION CONSTITUTION. THE DOCUMENT ON THE BANK EMPLOYEES UNION NOTES SPECIFICALLY THAT IT WAS PREPARED AT THE REQUEST AND ON THE BASIS OF INFO PROVIDED BY THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE UNION WHICH HAD SEEN AND APPROVED THE REPORT BEFORE IT WAS RELEASED.

5. THE ONLY NEW ELEMENT IN THE FO REPORT NOT CONTAINED IN REFTEL IS A CRITICAL REFERENCE TO AN ALLEGED "SCORCHED EARTH" POLICY FOLLOWED BY MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES (TOTAL REPATRIATION OF PROFITS, REFUSAL OF NEW INVESTMENTS, REDUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL AND STOCKS, THREATS OF LIQUIDATION), PRESUMABLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING THE STATUS QUO AS FAR AS THEIR OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL POLICIES ARE CONCERNED.

6. COPIES OF FO DOCUMENTS ARE BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.
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